

Memo from
JOSHUA LEDERBERG

To: Dr Bernice T. Eiduson
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FEB 15 1978

career failure in science (academe)

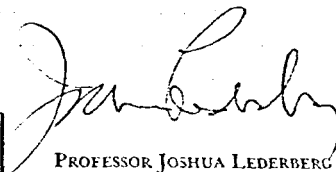
Do you have any bibliography on this theme?

(I now want to start thinking about this as an administrative responsibility, with a view to early warning and possible interventions. Obviously, the frame is greatly complicated these days by institutional tenure, on the one hand, and the vagaries of extra-institutional funding (!) on the other.)

Steve Cole had a Ph.D. student who did his dissertation on this title; but it seems to have been on the perceptions of junior faculty who were denied tenure. I wish I knew more about what happens to investigators whose research grants dry up for shorter or longer periods. But my principal aim is a better handle on prevention of catastrophes and the possibilities of timely intervention.

I gave a seminar a couple of years ago to our graduate students on the choice of a scientific career; and we did use your book of readings. The main shortcoming was my own: that there was a great deal of statistical and other information that I did not have -- perhaps does not exist. As you would be the first to point out, there is nothing less systematic in science than the socialization of the aspirants.

Sincerely,



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